

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in view of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-32 are pending. Claims 13-21 and 23 are presently amended, and claims 25-32 are presently added.

Applicant first wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the personal interview of June 18, 2003, during which the outstanding issues in the present application were discussed and arguments substantially as presented below were made. Additionally, Applicants' attorney proposed to amend the claims substantially as they are presently amended, in order to place the claims in further conformity with current U.S. claim drafting practice. No agreement was reached with respect to the ultimate patentability of the application, pending the Examiner's further reconsideration and/or search.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 13-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dubé. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection on the grounds that independent Claims 13 and 14 each define an invention, which when considered as a whole, is neither anticipated by, nor obvious over the Dubé reference.

An important feature of the present invention is the use of a diffusive reflector. The light flux submitted by each pumping light source around an amplifying medium is distributed by the reflector. Specification, page 8, ll. 10-13. The diffusive reflector advantageously illuminates the amplifying medium in all directions, which promotes homogeneous optical pumping. Specification, page 8, ll. 10-26. As a result, there are less symmetry constraints with respect to the positioning and sorting of the light sources, and additionally, the shape of the reflector can take various configurations. Specification, page 8, ll. 17-26.

The Dubé reference discloses a laser pump cavity in which the light stemming from a light source 91 undergoes several reflections on a wall 44 surrounding the amplifying medium 15. As a result, the light goes through the amplifying medium several times as it is pumped. The Dubé reference explicitly recites that the outer cylindrical surfaces 34 and 44 of the transparent pump cavity sleeves 31 and 41 or the inner surfaces 53 and 63 of the metallic sleeves 51 and 61 are made specular and/or highly reflective to the pump light to define the reflective surface of the pump cavity. Dubé, col. 8, ll. 39-44. Claims 13 and 14, on the other hand, each define a diffusive reflector. A diffusive reflector is not specular and is not highly reflective. Accordingly, Dubé is not believed to anticipate or make obvious the invention of Claim 13 or Claim 14.

Therefore, Applicant submits that Claims 13 and 14 patentably distinguish over the Dubé reference. Since Claims 15-32 depend from Claim 13 or 14, Applicant also submits that Claims 15-32 patentably distinguish over Dubé for at least the same reasons as Claims 13 and 14.

With further respect to the dependent claims, Supervisory Primary Examiner Ip suggested during the interview that the claims be amended "in view of figure 5." See Interview Summary. Applicant notes that amended claims 19-21 incorporate features of application Figure 5 and submits that claims 19-21 are patentably distinct from the Dubé reference.

Additionally, claims 25-32 have been added to recite various types of diffusive materials for the claimed reflector. None of those materials are taught or suggested in the Dubé reference, which expressly teaches away from the use of diffusive materials when it teaches that the outer cylindrical surfaces 34 and 44 of the transparent pump cavity sleeves 31 and 41 or the inner surfaces 53 and 63 of the metallic sleeves 51 and 61 are made specular

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and/or highly reflective to the pump light to define the reflective surface of the pump cavity.

Dubé, col. 8, ll. 39-44.

In view of the foregoing discussion, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the present application be allowed and be passed to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. C. Mattson', written over a horizontal line.

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